

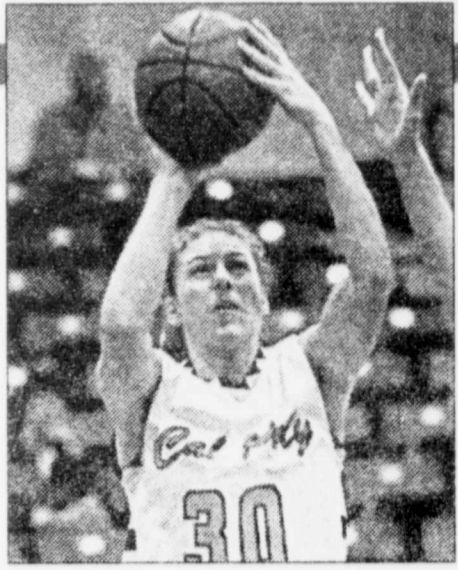
Gaucha invasion:

Women's hoops plays host to No. 10 Santa Barbara, 8

Monsoon: Vacationers seek shelter from weather, 3



High: 57°
Low: 47°



Mustang

DAILY

Friday, February 25, 2000

www.mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

Robbery suspect surrenders after standoff

Cal Poly Police find car leading to arrest

By Danielle Samaniego
and Megan Shearn

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITERS

An unarmed bank robbery led to a three-hour standoff at a residence near Murray and Broad streets in San Luis Obispo Thursday afternoon.

Police officers barricaded an estimated four-block radius between Chorro and Murray streets and Broad and Serrano streets after Mark Ward took refuge at 82 Broad Street around 11 a.m. Ward is the only suspect in the Westamerica Bank robbery.

The robbery took place around 10 a.m. Thursday at 545 Higuera St. The male suspect verbally coerced a teller to give him an unspecified amount of cash. During an on-scene press conference, San Luis Police Chief James Gardiner said he had no idea if Thursday morning's robbery was in connection with the previous three bank robberies in the county within the last two weeks.

The suspect vehicle was spotted on Tassajara Street by Cal Poly Police Investigator Ray Berrett, who then notified city police.

"SLOPD put out a 'be on the lookout.' I drove out to look around," said Berrett.

Two females were apprehended when police arrived at the car. One female tipped police officers to the Broad Street location where Ward was hiding, Gardiner said.

Officers clad in bulletproof jackets and armed with guns and tear gas quickly surrounded the house. Authorities were unsure whether or not Ward was armed at the time. A phone was tossed into the home after police broke a window to make communication. An unidentified ex-wife was brought to the scene to coerce Ward out of the house.

"This was not his residence, and we don't know who it belongs to," Gardiner said.

Ward surrendered and emerged from the home at approximately 3 p.m. Armed officers immediately led him to a nearby police



vehicle. No one was injured during the standoff.

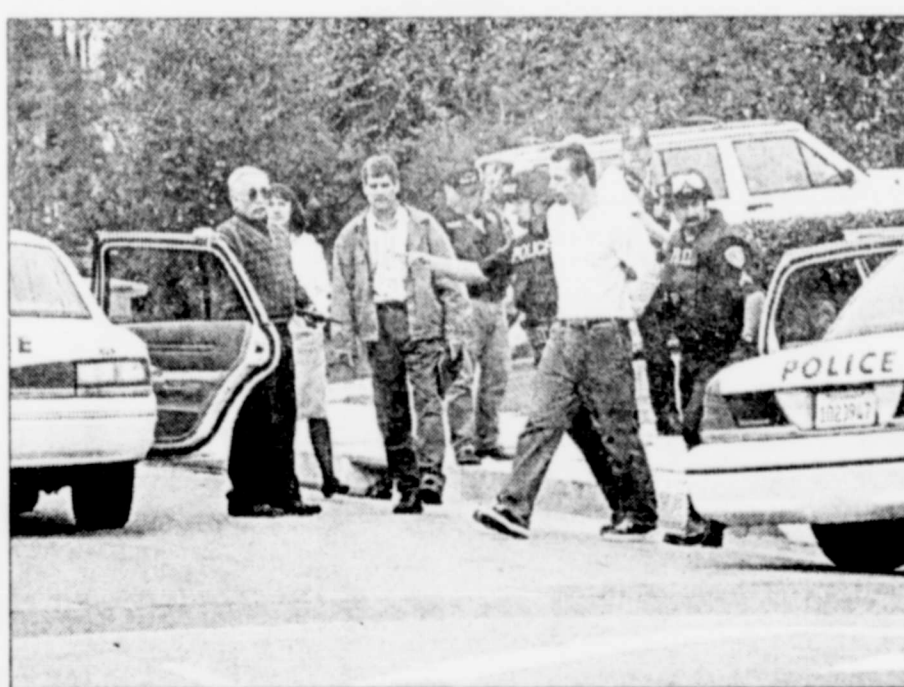
"I'm always happy when negotiators settle something without somebody getting hurt," Gardiner said.

Along with the San Luis Police Department, the Cal Poly Police, FBI, Sheriff's department and CHP collaborated to end the standoff.

"One of the good things about this county is that we do work together," Gardiner said.

Brent Jarcik, a Cal Poly business sophomore, lives next door to the house where Ward hid. He was walking home when he discovered armed police officers and nego-

see ROBBERY, page 2



Police officers barricaded an estimated four-blocks around Chorro and Murray streets Thursday. Mark Ward, wearing white shirt, took refuge at 82 Broad Street around 11 a.m. Ward surrendered and emerged from the home at around 3 p.m.

STEVE SCHUENEMAN/
MUSTANG DAILY

19-year-old dies in southbound Hwy. 1 accident near Poly

By Alexis Garbeff

MUSTANG DAILY NEWS EDITOR

A 19-year-old woman from Morro Bay died and three others were hospitalized Wednesday afternoon after their car rear-ended a vehicle turning left in the southbound fast lane of Highway 1.

CHP Officer Jody Langford said a white Toyota Corolla rear-ended a Ford Ranger pick-up, which was stopped in the southbound fast lane to turn left onto Stenner Creek Road at around 2 p.m. The driver of the Corolla died at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. The three other passengers in the Corolla were injured. One male is in serious condition, and two others are in moderate condition. The woman in the Ford was not injured.

see ACCIDENT, page 2



Cal Poly's Career Services held a career symposium Thursday in which 117 employers visited the Rec Center.

MARKUS SCHNEIDER/MUSTANG DAILY

Symposium brings employers to Poly

By Monica McHugh

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Those who are unemployed know that finding a job, let alone a career, can be a nightmare. Cal Poly's Career Services made life a little easier for students Thursday by bringing 117 employers to the Rec Center for a giant career symposium.

"The career symposium is the best opportunity in an informal and welcoming atmosphere to meet employers for a variety of purposes, including job seeking, career exploration and contacts," said Shel Burrell, associate director of Career Services and coordinator of the event.

The symposium brought employers, who were mostly Cal Poly alumni, representing

see SYMPOSIUM, page 2

Bicyclist in stable condition after collision with van

By Kerri Holden

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Two days after he was seriously injured in a bicycle accident, mechanical engineering senior Brandon Wahl is listed in stable condition at Sierra Vista Medical Center.

A van driven by computer science senior Kevin Kischuk hit Wahl at the intersection of Fredericks and Kentucky streets as he rode to school Tuesday morning.

According to witnesses, Kischuk swerved to avoid Wahl when the bicyclist ran the Kentucky Street stop sign, but neither could avoid the collision.

The accident left Wahl with several injuries, including a broken ankle and a head injury that causes him to drift in and out of consciousness.

"He is less and less unconscious as the time goes on," his mother Carol Wahl said Thursday. "Our hope is that he'll have a full recovery because every time we see him

"He is less and less unconscious as the time goes on. Our hope is that he'll have a full recovery because every time we see him he's better."

Carol Wahl

mother of Brandon Wahl

he's better."

Cara Dunstan, a biology junior and Wahl's girlfriend, said Brandon Wahl has not commented much on the circumstances leading up to the collision except to say that he's not quite sure what happened.

"He said he was pressing on the brakes, but they didn't stop him in time," Dunstan said.

According to San Luis Obispo Police, the accident is still pending investigation.

Carol Wahl said most of her son's worries have been about his school work.

"He's frustrated that he can't get out to study for his tests," said his mother. "He's very serious about his education."

Dunstan said he asked her to talk to all his professors to make sure they knew about the accident.

"He's pretty stressed out about school right now," she said.

Despite this, Dunstan said Wahl's attitude has been admirable, especially since he was recently moved out of intensive care.

"He's in the best mood you can be in considering he's just lying in a hospital bed," Dunstan said. "But he really wants to get out of there."

Dunstan said there's the possibility Wahl will be released on Monday but that the results of a CAT scan need to be checked first.

El Corral cameras catch thieves

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Two suspects caught on video tape were arrested Tuesday evening on burglary charges for attempting to steal \$200 worth of textbooks from El Corral.

Heather Dawn Robinson and Paul Henry Miramontes were booked on burglary and conspiracy

charges, both felonies. If convicted, they face a minimum of one year imprisonment in a state prison, Cal Poly Police Sgt. Steve Schroeder said.

After viewing Robinson and Miramontes on video tape, El Corral Bookstore Security detained the suspects until University Police arrived. The suspects were found

with three computer notebooks totaling nearly \$200, Schroeder said.

A third person, Joseph Anthony Miramontes, was arrested in a vehicle on campus. After being detained for a traffic stop, police arrested Miramontes on a \$5,000 warrant.

All three are local residents but are not registered students.

SYMPOSIUM

continued from page 1

companies ranging from Mervyn's to agriculture and architecture firms. Many high-tech firms attended the symposium as well.

"We wanted to get our name back down here and get some new educated blood," said Adrienne Hatchett, a 1996 ornamental horticulture alumnus of Dinsmore Landscape Company. The Bay Area company was interested in recruiting interns, a flower specialist and an irrigation technician.

In the past, Cal Poly students have made strong impressions on employers.

"We like Cal Poly students because they know what they're doing and they're great at what they do," said Doreen Chun from the Department of Public Works.

Three thousand students were expected to attend the event that ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I figure I am going to graduate soon, so I better check out my opportunities," mechanical engineering senior Jeff Michael said.

Industrial engineering senior Arrika Stevens said she benefited from the symposium as opposed to other forms of job seeking.

"There is only so much you can find on the Internet. It doesn't give you the wide spectrum of opportuni-

"We like Cal Poly students because they know what they're doing and they're great at what they do."

Doreen Chun

Department of Public Works

ties that coming here does. Here you can see everything that's available," Stevens said.

This is the 21st annual career symposium and is Career Service's largest event. In the past, the event has been held in Chumash

Auditorium, but Burrell said the symposium outgrew the auditorium.

Because the symposium was a campuswide event, it was open to students of all majors, and with the support of Associated Students Inc., it was held in the Rec Center.

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Source: U.S Census Bureau

Census Bureau aims to curb miscounting of college students

(U-WIRE) STANFORD, Calif. — In addition to minorities, the poor, the homeless, and children, college students are among the most undercounted individuals by census workers.

College students are particularly difficult to count because of their multiple addresses and low census questionnaire response rates.

This year, the Census Bureau is hoping to curb miscounts and undercounts by embarking on an ambitious program of community partnerships and outreach.

"This is the first time the Census Bureau has made partnerships on a mass scale . . . they have taken outreach to an unprecedented level," said census analyst and Sociology Prof. Matt Snipp.

In addition to paid advertisements and newly formed Complete Count Committees, local census officials plan to aggressively attack the problem of undercounting on the Stanford campus.

Phil Matthews, assistant manager for recruiting in the Sunnyvale Census 2000 office, said his office is working with various students groups, fraternities and sororities to heighten awareness among Stanford students. The office will also attend several basketball games to distribute information about the census, as well as recruit students to

be field counters.

Field counters make about \$15.50 an hour and census office workers earn about \$11.75 an hour.

Matthews added that Stanford has been the most difficult university to plan activities for in Santa Clara County. Difficulties in posting information on the campus and other forms of bureaucracy hinder outreach efforts.

Santa Clara government officials estimate that roughly 9.5 to 10 percent of the undercount in the last census originated in unincorporated county areas like Stanford. Because census figures are used to decide how federal funding is distributed, the county loses money for every student not counted.

Pete Kutras, the assistant county executive for Santa Clara county estimated that the county lost between \$60 million and \$180 million in funding over the past 10 years due to an approximate undercount of 40,000 people in the 1990 census.

"The census bureau has told us the real issue is not the [undercount] of the dorm population but the students who are living off campus or in group settings where one person may not fill out the form for all the people living in the house," he said.

ROBBERY

continued from page 1

tiators standing at his front door.

"I just wanted to get home for lunch," Jarcik said.

Ironically, Jarcik works at the

Westamerica Bank.

"But, I just work Fridays," he said.

If convicted, Ward will be charged with a federal crime, according to Gardiner. Further investigations will be handed over to the FBI in Santa Maria.

ACCIDENT

continued from page 1

"The Toyota probably didn't have a chance to brake. It didn't leave a long trail of skid marks," Langford said.

Langford could not determine

how fast the Corolla was traveling.

CHP Officer Andrew Kenny said, "The person in the white Toyota Corolla had to be extricated with the Jaws of Life."

Kenny added that the amount of traffic on the 65-mph highway is becoming "heavier everyday."

The names of the victims could not be released.

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Students brave elements

Nine students endured wind, rain, and a little sunshine all in the name of adventure

By Kelly Hendricks
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

One group on campus didn't let last weekend's rainstorms ruin its fun.

A group of nine Cal Poly students from Poly Escapes went on a backpacking trip to Point Reyes, located above San Francisco.

Despite frequent monsoon-like conditions, the group spent Friday through Monday backpacking and camping in the wilderness.

"The trip went really well," said Jamie LeRoy, a business freshman and trip guide. "Point Reyes is probably one of the most beautiful places I've been to with Poly Escapes."

The trip was headed by two leaders, LeRoy and Michelle Zeidman, and two mentors, Amy Lobsinger

and Steve Schueneman. Lobsinger and Schueneman are older students who were training the two younger leaders.

The group's days were filled mostly with hiking, mainly because they had a good distance to cover. They did, however, take time to stop and see waterfalls and ocean views.

But the rain did take its toll. Lobsinger said the group spent a lot of time setting up emergency shelters for protection from the rain and wind.

The stormy conditions also provided some entertaining close calls.

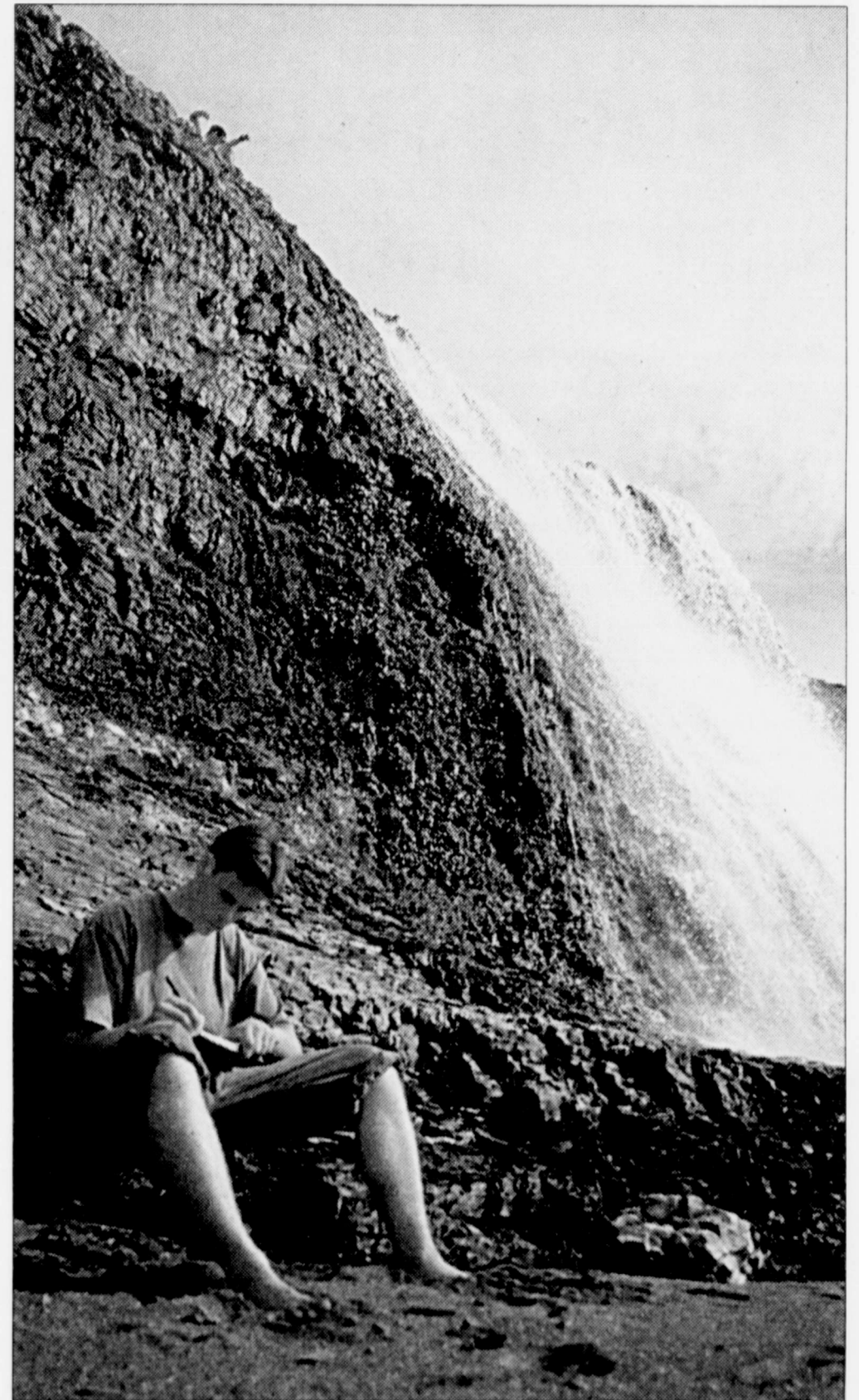
"The wind got so bad that it was blowing us over because our backpacks were acting like sails," Lobsinger said. "We were on a cliff and one of the guys almost went

over. He started bouncing on the edge and we all were saying to ourselves, 'Uh-oh.' Luckily, he eventually regained his balance."

Lobsinger said the trip cost \$30 per person. The fee covered gas to and from Point Reyes, equipment, and permits for the three campsites and trail. Food was additional.

"The trip was a blast – really, really fun," Lobsinger said. "When you get out in the elements, it's a rush to tempt yourself. The rain wasn't going to stop us."

Poly Escapes has many trips, ranging from snow shoeing to ice climbing, planned for upcoming weekends. To get more details, contact Poly Escapes at 756-1287.



STEVE SCHUENEMAN/MUSTANG DAILY

Brian Rupnik, above, takes a break near a waterfall. Rupnik, Michelle Zeidman, and Will Wright, above left, get a little windblown.

Wilderness academy helps build student self-esteem

FRENCH GULCH, Calif. (AP) – Sixteen-year-old Jake Mills had made a habit out of skipping school in his hometown of Danville.

But when his parents sent him to NAWA, a wilderness-based boarding school in French Gulch, he quickly realized his days as a truant were over.

"When I got here, it was like, where am I gonna go?" Mills said of the remote, 556-acre campus at the foot of the Trinity Alps.

Imagine his surprise when he discovered that, for the first time, he didn't want to escape from school.

"I'm a lot happier now, a lot more outgoing," said Mills, who has been at NAWA for four months. "I've kind of started over."

Mills is among about 30 students from all over California who study, live and play at the school. And "bored" isn't an adjective you're likely to hear there.

When students aren't in class, they're scaling rocks, rappelling down cliffs or crawling through caves. It's all part of a plan to infuse self-confidence and motivation into teens who have been frustrated by the traditional educational system.

Formerly called the North American Wilderness Academy, the school serves seventh-graders through high school seniors.

Though a few come to NAWA with high grades, most haven't done

well academically in the past, said Jason Hull, NAWA's director of admissions and marketing.

"If your son hasn't made it in public school since kindergarten and he's in 10th grade, he's probably not going to succeed in the 11th," said Hull, who also directs NAWA's wilderness and rescue safety programs and is a training officer for Shasta County Search and Rescue.

Each class has four to 11 students apiece, which is ideal for teens who have spent years hiding in the back of a classroom, Hull said. After the school day ends at 4:30 p.m., students have dinner together and participate in activities that range from playing pool to fly-fishing before retiring to their dorms. Lights go out at 10 p.m.

The campus' philosophy follows the proverb, "I heard and I forgot. I saw and I remembered. I did and I understood."

The boarding school actually has three academic programs – the California Academy, which is in French Gulch; Academy USA, which features 16-day educational trips all over the world; and Snowboard USA near Lake Tahoe, where students train for snowboarding competitions while attending school. The students are registered with the U.S. Amateur Snowboarding Association.

Hull's parents, Dave and Celia, had bought the camp when they were living in Whittier and started

"These little things can do so much for your self-esteem, like, 'Wow, I just climbed that rock.'"

Heather Hall
NAWA student

Pine Meadows School for severely emotionally disturbed youth there in 1980. From 1988 to 1992, NAWA was a summer school. In fall 1992, the traveling program was founded and it took eight kids in a van all over the country, Hull said.

They closed Pine Meadows in June 1994 and opened the California Academy that fall. Snowboard USA opened the following fall in Mount Shasta (it moved to Tahoe two years later).

Dave Hull is the president and administrator of the school; his wife, who holds a doctoral degree in psychology, is the dean of students.

NAWA also has an "Adventure Summer School," which blends academics and outdoor activities.

Academy USA costs \$21,980 per school year, and the other two programs are an additional \$3,000. Some \$80,000 in financial aid is distributed every year, and a typical financial aid package covers 25 percent of the school's cost. NAWA is accredited through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The curriculum is based on state standards and the academy also offers vocational education, includ-

ing landscaping, culinary arts, wood shop and firefighting.

And students learn a variety of outdoor skills, including backpacking, rock climbing (the school has a climbing wall), caving, skiing, mountaineering, kayaking, rappelling, snowboarding and mountain biking. All students take courses in vertical rescue and swift-water rescue. Students spend one day each weekend doing community service or going on an outdoor excursion.

Wilderness activities heighten teens' self-confidence, motivation, leadership skills and study habits, Hull said.

Students agreed.

"These little things can do so much for your self-esteem – like, 'Wow, I just climbed that rock,'" said sophomore Heather Hall, 16, of Mill Valley.

Added Mills, "It's a lot of stuff I wouldn't go out and do on my own."

And students said they have the utmost faith in their instructors. "There's no dude I'd feel safer on a rock with than this dude," Mills said of Nieman Van Hooser, a wilderness instructor and mountain bike trip leader who led a recent rock-climbing trip.

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The issue: Political character bashing

Stick to important issues

True character is essential

In kindergarten, we all learned that name calling was wrong. Our teachers patiently taught us, "If you don't have something nice to say about somebody, don't say anything at all." We even turned our lessons into rhymes that could be chanted when some bully picked on us on the playground: Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.

This theme carried through high school and college, where we learned to criticize issues — not speakers or writers — in our critical thinking classes. We learned that ad hominem attacks, points made against the appearance or character of an opponent, were fallacies, poor arguments and signs of a weak thinker.

I wonder, then, if people who get involved with modern politics slept through those classes. There is more to campaigning than the character bashing that seems to be so prevalent in our nation's political practices.

From bashing President Clinton to dissecting David Blakely's character in columns and opinion letters printed in past issues of the Mustang Daily, character-based campaigns and arguments miss what should be the core of political debates and events.

Character-bashing tactics are readily apparent in virtually every opinion letter sent in by backers of candidates. Candidates themselves are also responsible for a good portion of mudslinging and attacks. Today's campaign speeches seem to be comprised more of attacks on opponents, and responses to allegations made by opponents and the media, than actual talk on important issues.

Money spent on making television commercials that portray a candidate's opponents as blood-thirsty wolves is money wasted. Such startling visual images and allegations of flaws in an opponent's character are effective for gut-level emotional appeal, but lack the substance that should be devoted to the weighty and public matter of politics.

Instead of spending time and resources investigating each other's pasts and creating cheesy television spots, candidates should devote their energy to exploring relevant issues and developing productive solutions to problems our society faces.

While a good character is a strong and necessary quality for campaigners to have, character-bashing campaigns say that our society has become shallow. When voters begin devoting their attention to the people instead of the issues, they are guilty of seeing only the surface of the issues.

Voters should care less about how many times a candidate may have done a certain drug in high school and more about what that candidate will actually do if elected or appointed. Since these candidates will most likely not be reliving their pasts in their newly appointed offices, it makes more sense to judge them on what they will actually be doing with the power they may hold.

The past does have a place, but instead of digging it up, candidates and supporters alike should acknowledge it, learn from it and move on. Campaigners should stop looking for weaknesses in everyone around them.

A candidate, and society as a whole, would benefit from efforts to focus on his or her own ideals and how to apply them to the future.

Leave the name-calling for the bullies on the playground.

Ryan Miller is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

The election of public officials is one of the most important processes in our country, and no aspect of it should be taken lightly. Unfortunately, many people have accepted the belief that a person's character should not be a prime consideration, and that is a very dangerous mindset.

When voting, people choose the candidates who best represent their opinions and interests. They choose someone who they feel will do the job and lead the community or nation in a positive direction. Obviously, a candidate's experience and abilities are crucial factors, but his or her character is just as important.

When President Clinton made some very questionable decisions regarding his personal life, many people argued that it was none of the public's business and should have no effect on his ability to do his job. Such character blemishes, personal or public, should not be permitted.

The leader of a country should be an exemplary citizen. There are plenty of people who could run the country as well as Clinton, but have much higher moral standards. A person in

such a position should be above reproach because he holds our trust to lead the nation, and behavior such as oral sex on taxpayer property is an outright disregard for our trust.

Of course, we all make mistakes. Clinton made a mistake.

Actually, he made many mistakes of the same nature that, when brought to the public's attention, should have prevented him from being voted into office in the first place, much less a second time. However, in the economic prosperity that everyone but me seems to be enjoying, Americans overlooked his overwhelming character flaws.

As a consequence, the position of president has been made a laughing stock of the world, and the standard has been dramatically lowered for future leaders.

Locally, we have seen the character issue in the county supervisor's race between Mike Ryan and David Blakely. A recent article by Tamas Simon stated that Blakely has a less than perfect character and lists faults such as past drug use. Questions voters should ask themselves are: If the allegations are true, is that the kind of person we want in office? Or has he mended his ways enough to be an acceptable choice?

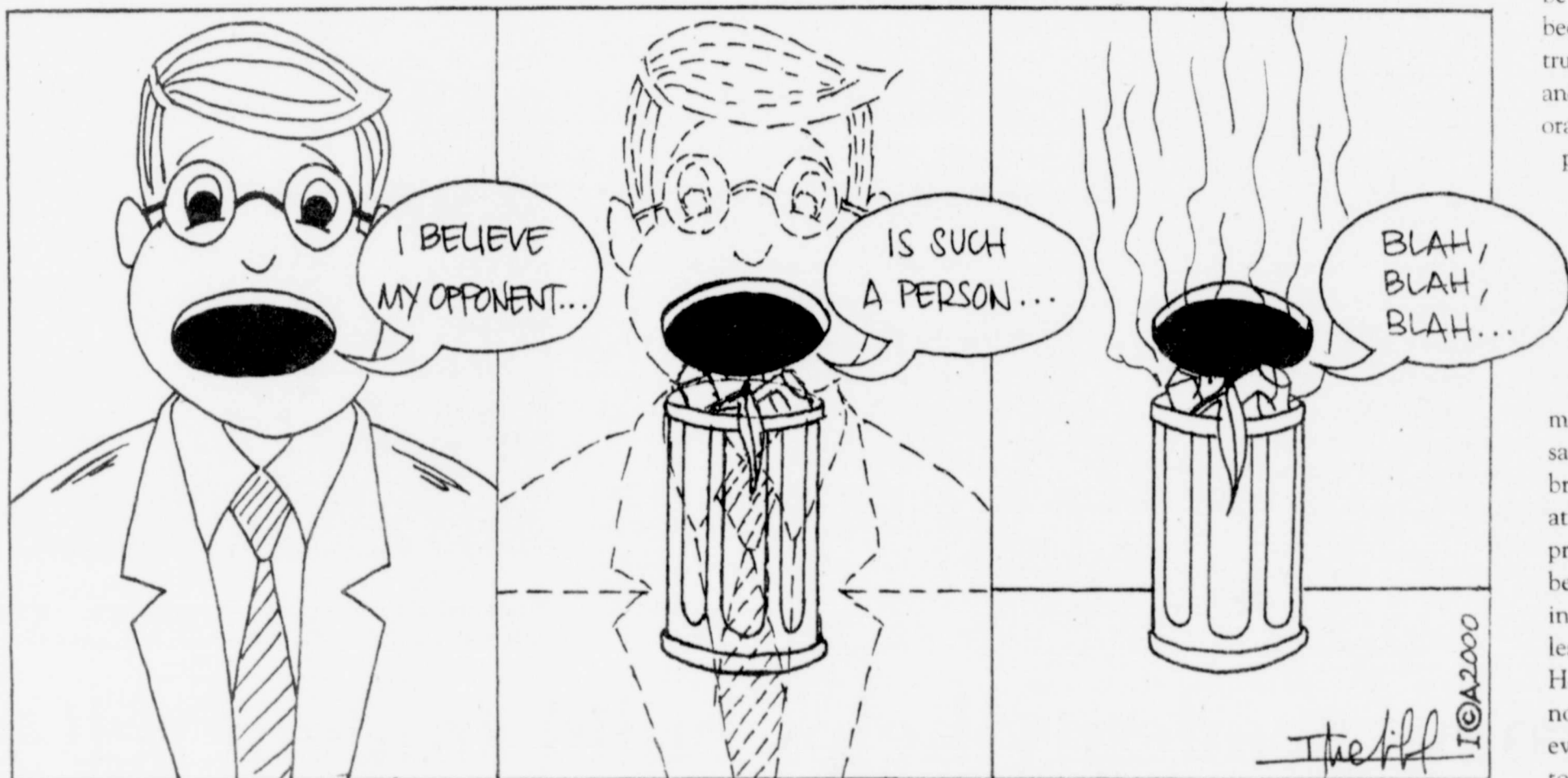
As for Ryan, there aren't the same kinds of allegations against his character as there are with Blakely, but voters still need to find out what kind of character he has before they make a decision.

Character attacks are also prevalent in advertising for current presidential candidates. "Negative advertising" is fair enough if the allegations are absolutely true. Often voters learn things about candidates through ads they might not hear from other media. Sometimes they can be informative, but when they deteriorate to immature character bashing, they can easily get out of hand. No one wants to see two candidates going back and forth trying to get even with each other.

The bottom line is, character is an important consideration in an election. Every effort should be made to find the truth about the candidates, and to consider whether the person is an example to other communities or nations and today's children.

Do not belittle the importance of character.

Karin Driesen is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily staff writer.



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"You covered this, right? Well, it happened."

A new twist on locals' old downtown attitude

It has always puzzled me why the citizens of San Luis Obispo are against corporate America. They claim that by allowing large chain stores to open for business, the companies would, in essence, be invading the way of life that they value so much.

Commentary

These feelings were only too clear awhile back, when feathers were ruffled over the new Carl's Jr. restaurant that opened in their precious downtown. I find this funny, when a block away, Higuera is lined with chain stores that, from what I hear, revitalized the downtown shopping experience a few years back.

"They'll run the mom-and-pop stores out of business," they scream. Apparently, those citizens have never set foot into a Carl's Jr. restau-

rant before. I doubt there is a local eatery downtown that is seriously threatened by the production of a Western Bacon Cheeseburger close by. I'd like someone to name for me the restaurant that is in immediate competition with them. Certainly not Big Sky or F. McClintock's or Fish Daddy's. Maybe it's the Chinese restaurants across the street that will be inadvertently affected. No? Well, then, what's the problem?

The only conclusion that one can draw from the mood in San Luis Obispo is that people enjoy the headaches of shopping. They enjoy driving endlessly around town in search of a parking spot. They enjoy the limited choice of retailers to choose from. They even enjoy the higher prices that one must pay at the local stores, as opposed to big-box retailers. If none of the previous conclusions

are true, then why are we absent a WalMart store? I hear that a Target store is in the planning stages, but I'm sure that its development is riddled with controversy. Why is San Luis Obispo so adverse to progress and change?

I think the citizens of this town need to step back and take a deep breath. Look at how successful the downtown mall has become. It has become a prime example of how corporate America and local retailers can work together for the revitalization of a particular area. Apparently, to the opposition of the Carl's Jr. eatery, the Happy Star logo is an eye-sore, and too generic for the specialization of downtown — yet there lies the logical reasoning. Each one of the local retailers downtown has already established a niche in the marketplace. That's right, the

big-box retailers will never be able to capture the exquisite home furnishings of Meridian, or the superior quality and serene environment of Linnaea's, or the mixture of new and vintage albums at Boo Boo Records.

Think of the tourists, and how they will rationalize the situation. They'll probably choose a local eatery over Carl's Jr. anyway. Why? They can get Carl's Jr. at home, and they'd probably prefer to sample the local flavor of San Luis Obispo. Besides, the construction of a fast-food outlet will only bring more variety to downtown.

My conclusion is that those individuals opposed to Carl's Jr. downtown should leave its future to the decisions of customers, and not the disgruntled locals.

Chris J. Campbell is a political science junior.

Proceed with caution regarding Prop. 21

Editor,

We have the choice to vote carefully on many propositions in the coming election. I strongly recommend that all voters proceed with caution. Proposition 21 especially needs such caution. This proposition claims to put a stop to gangs. Gangs these days refer to mostly Latinos and African-Americans. Proposition 21 is a violation of our 14th Amendment regarding equal protection of the laws. It also allows minors as young as 14 to be sentenced as adults.

Minors should not be sentenced as adults because they do not have the same freedoms and rights as adults. Minors do not think or act like adults when making serious decisions. They do not understand the consequences that follow their crimes. Education lacks in this department because teachers aren't psychologists and aren't able to detect children who suffer internally.

Our country thrives and spends billions of dollars on nuclear warfare. We associate war, violence and military power as the American tradition. A large percentage of our world revolves around violence. These things send messages that violence is the backbone of our culture.

We educate young teenagers to kill, maim, injure and hurt anyone or anything that threatens our security. So many people needlessly purchase and keep guns in their houses. This creates a picture, portraying to teenagers that guns are acceptable

and normal in everyday life.

We then perpetuate this concept by supporting the media and entertainment industries. The public watches violence and, for the most part, adults are able to distinguish reality from non-reality. Minors are not always able to perform the same task.

Young children and minors, especially through the ages of 12 to 18, are so vulnerable and fragile. They have tremendous responsibilities and are expected to perform miracles. School, peer pressure, dating, drugs, sex, alcohol and rebellion are only some issues minors face. We expect teenagers to do more than should have to. Parents rely on the community, society and the government for positive intervention.

If violence is rising in our schools, there are reasons why. It is our business to investigate and find the underlying factors. This is when compassion and unconditional love take priority. I ask everyone to think about the results of harsher punishments on minors. Then I ask all adults to think about your own teenage years. As you're coming back from those youthful memories, acknowledge how our society thrives on violent propaganda.

How can we ask so much responsibility from minors when our society and media are promoting nothing but violence?

Nancy E. Kapp is a political science sophomore.

Letters to the editor

Prop. 22 is short but far from sweet

Editor,

On March 7, California voters will vote on Proposition 22. The measure is a surprisingly short and sweet 14 words: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

But in that seemingly simple sentence lies the key to an extremely dangerous Pandora's box of legal and civil rights issues. Let us not fool you: Proposition 22 is addressing gay marriage. Its purpose is to limit the definition of marriage as to exclude same-sex marriages.

California law, however, has no provision for same-sex marriage.

Section 300 of the California Family Code reads: "Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between a man and a woman." Those 17 words sound pretty familiar, don't they?

Proposition 22 doesn't say anything different from what California law currently says; it certainly doesn't add anything to the law books, except more ink.

This seemingly harmless proposition's purpose is a springboard for future legislation and court rulings that will serve to limit Californians' fundamental rights.

In other states, similar laws, which were unfortunately passed, have been used to limit hospitalization visitation, health insurance and inheritance rights.

More importantly, the passing of Proposition 22 would make the legislative and judicial climate in California friendly to more disturbing forms of legislation.

If initiatives like Proposition 22 are allowed to pass today, who is to say we won't be facing a proposition tomorrow that limits marriage to only those who have not been previously married?

Or maybe only those who have no children?

If the Knight Initiative were to pass, the possibilities become endless, and the limits on such frightening limitations and conditions become blurred.

Gov. Gray Davis has said about this issue, "I have always opposed same-sex marriage. I (also) oppose wedge-issue politics that have divided one California from another."

You don't have to support same-sex marriage or the "gay lifestyle" to vote "no" on Proposition 22.

You need only support the notion that California doesn't need repetitive laws that serve to ultimately divide us.

Mitch, Chris, Morgen, Paul are officers of Gays, Lesbians & Bisexuals United, and Karen and Carrie are of the National Organization of Women.

Prop. 22 isn't scare tactic

I would like to respond to the misinformation spread by Tim Riley ("Proposition 22 is simple," Feb. 17).

•FACT: The University of Pittsburgh is currently arguing that Pennsylvania's anti-marriage law forbids reliance on local anti-discrimination ordinances as grounds for obtaining equal treatment of gay and heterosexual employees in the area of dependent health-care benefits (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, April 28, 1999, pg. A-17).

•FACT: An Idaho judge has refused to allow a lesbian to adopt her partner's child because of the state's enactment of an anti-marriage law similar to the Knight Initiative (Lewiston Morning Tribune, Jan. 25, 1999, pg. A-8).

•FACT: An Idaho county attorney has asserted that domestic partner health-care benefits cannot be provided to county employees in same-sex partnerships (The Spokesman-Review, April 7, 1999, B3).

These examples show that the Knight Initiative will indeed affect the rights given to couples in same-sex relationships. It sure doesn't look like "scare-tactic campaigning" to me. Riley also stated, "Proposition 22 is not hatred or discrimination toward any person or their family." I would like to know what he would call it when I am denied the same rights as anyone else in this state. I would like to know what he would call it when my family is not recognized as such by the state of California.

Even if your religion doesn't approve of my love for someone, please don't make the laws of MY state say the same thing. Why should words in a belief system I don't subscribe to dictate the conditions of my life? It's not fair and it's not right. I'm not asking for special rights, I'm asking for equal rights.

In order to vote against Proposition 22, you don't even have to believe in same-sex marriages. You only have to believe in equality and freedom, two basic American values.

Carrie Carden is an ecology senior.

Republicans do care about important issues

Editor,

This letter is in response to Greg Kinion's uninformed critique of Republican politics ("The perfect political recipe," Feb. 14). In his letter, Kinion characterized the Republican Party as not caring about children and poverty.

We can take a quick look at some current political issues to show that Republicans do have an agenda to address poverty in America. Both Bush and McCain support expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program, lessening the tax burden on the working poor, and policies that help impoverished families provide day care for their children. In addition, Republicans support school vouchers (which are widely embraced by impoverished families) to give poor children an opportunity at equality in education. Gore and Bradley oppose vouchers.

And recently in California, Gov. Davis rejected Republican proposals to slash college tuitions to increase their availability across economic lines. He also approved less money for education than Republican legislators requested.

McCain and Bush are the only candidates true to supporting an increase in pay for our enlisted servicemen. There are thousands of soldiers who fight for our country but still struggle to put food on the table for their families.

Kinion also takes a surprisingly critical stance against Republican law-and-order philosophy. I agree that some of these laws are too harsh on drug users and small-time drug dealers. But "Three Strikes" legislation, putting more police on the streets, and Mayor Giuliani-style policing have made our streets safer. Do we really want to revert back to the days of Rose Bird and the soft-on-crime liberalism that completely disregarded victim's rights?

And should we continue the practices of the Clinton administration that prosecutes less than 5 percent of juveniles who bring firearms to schools, and fails to reprimand felons who attempt to buy guns?

The bottom line: Both Democrats and Republicans care about our children and are addressing the issue of poverty in America. Republicans just stress personal responsibility, local community efforts and a limited, efficient government to address our social problems. We feel that that is a more effective strategy than tax-and-spend programs that bloat government.

Jeremy Kyler is a political science major.

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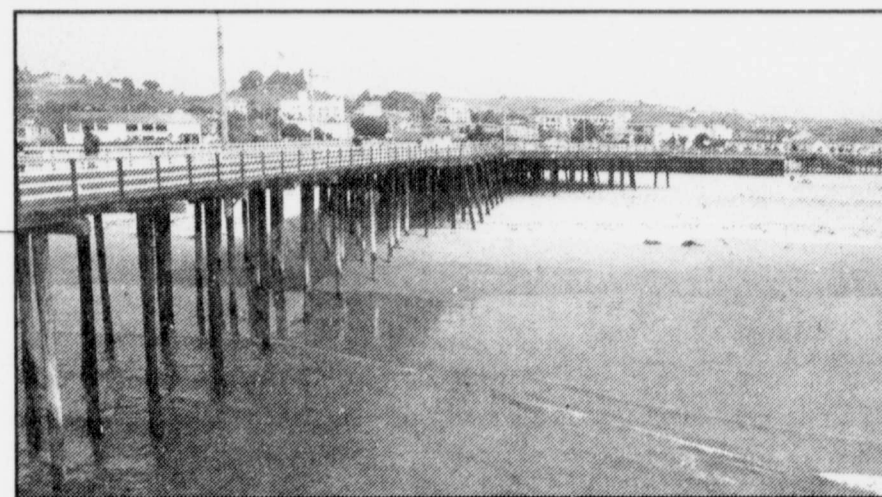
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Destinations & Diversions



Popular Mexican cantina offers great food

A favorite haunt for local residents and a popular tourist choice, Old Juan's Cantina offers a traditional Mexican meal in a casual environment that reflects the ambiance of an old Mexican cantina.

Old Juan's is at Highway 1 and Pier Avenue in Oceano Beach, (the gateway to the Ocean Dunes State Vehicular Recreation area). A lot of people are still unaware of the location and its proximity to recreational opportunities like surfing, swimming, surf-fishing, camping, hiking, and off-roading. The entrance to Oceano Dunes is just down the street at the end of Pier Avenue where one can drive right out onto the sand and, with the right equipment, all over the dunes trails. Many park visitors use Old Juan's as a place to re-fuel the body with the best Mexican food in the county and cool off with a Gold



Old Juan's Cantina in Oceano Beach has traditional meals in a casual atmosphere. The restaurant is at Highway 1 and Pier Avenue.

Tequila Margarita. (In truth, Old Juan's offers a number of Tequilas and fruit flavors to choose from, as well as a 48 oz. Jumbo Margarita!)

Old Juan's Cantina is very for-

tunate to have a consistently strong following of regulars. Many of the regulars visit every week and have dined at Old Juan's for the past twenty years.

Newcomers, however, may be under the impression that Old Juan's Cantina is a new concept. Both cases are true. The current chef/owner purchased Carl's Spanish Seas Restaurant back in the mid '70s and has been running it ever since. Although Spanish Seas had a good reputation and enjoyed strong customer support, the desire to renovate Spanish Seas and transform it into a rustic "cantina" started right from the beginning.

A fire nearly gutted the building in November of 1993, and it was not until the spring of 1995 that the restaurant re-opened with its new digs and new name. The fifteen months of rebuilding after the devastating fire was a trying time for customers and staff members. Customers still talk about making do without the restaurant. Loyal staff members

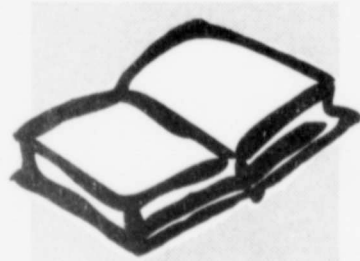
can recall the transition from serving food to tearing down walls (ever seen a foodserver wield a sawsall?) The resulting sophisticated, yet rustic, ambiance along with the palate-pleasing offerings have made the restaurant/cantina an even greater success.

As a matter of fact, the public overwhelmed Old Juan's right from the first day it re-opened, even though the restaurant was unadvertised. The staff hoped to keep it a relative secret in order to get used to the new place, but apparently a lot of locals wanted to get used to it as well.

Old Juan's Cantina has a variety of Mexican dishes and a Sunday Ranchero Breakfast from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The majority of entrees range from \$7.99 to \$12.99, perfect for a student's budget.

Old Juan's Cantina can be reached at 489-5680.

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WRESTLING

continued from page 8

qualify for the NCAA Championships. My main goal is to make it into the finals and hopefully be a Pac-10 champion," Reta said. "I just want to get out there and show what I can do."

Cousins Alberto and Jaime Garza will also be looking to qualify for their first NCAA berths. Alberto Garza wrestles in the 133-pound class and enters the tournament with a 21-11 overall record while Jaime enters 18-17.

Mustang head coach Lennis Cowell spoke of his aspirations for this weekend.

"My outlook is to qualify as many guys as we can for the NAAs. That's our goal," Cowell said. "If we get three, four or five champions, that would be great."

BASKETBALL

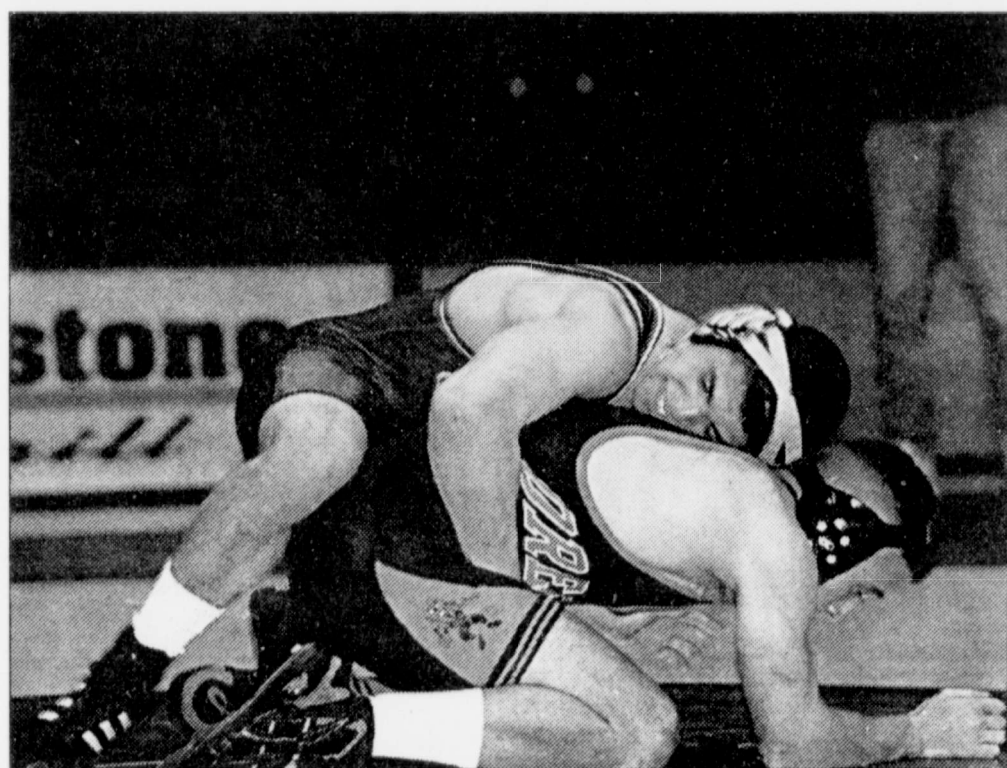
continued from page 8

Gauchos' wide array of offensive weapons.

Cal Poly's No. 1 obstacle will be to stop 6-3 guard Erin Buescher. Buescher is coming off two seasons with the Gauchos in which she has been named Big West Player of the Year and Tournament MVP each year. She added another decoration to her list after being named the Big West Player of the Week.

Mustang sophomore Odessa Jenkins is confident in her team's ability to defend the All-American.

"We're just going to play her



DAN GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly wrestlers can earn an NCAA championship berth this weekend.

Cal Poly placed fifth at last year's Pac-10 Championships at Stanford. The Mustangs enter this year's tournament with wins over conference

opponents Portland State, Cal State Fullerton and UC Davis. The entire tournament will be shown match by match on TheWrestlingMall.com.

straight up. I have pure faith in any of my teammates who will guard her," Jenkins said.

Teammate Sherilyn Frazier, playing her final season, described the Mustangs' philosophy facing the tough challenge.

"We're not going to do anything different. We're going to play aggressive and we're going to play smart," Frazier said. "I think if we execute and limit their key players to low touches, we'll be fine."

Another thorn in the side of the Mustangs will be Gaucho forward Kristi Rohr. Rohr, a four-year starter, is UCSB's all-time leading scorer. She is an extremely consistent scorer who makes her presence known

on the boards as well.

Mimnaugh said stopping her will be one of many things the Mustangs must do in order to keep pace with the Gauchos.

"We have to shut down their transition and maintain our poise against their pressure defense in the half court," Mimnaugh said. "I think they're a very good team and hopefully our size and quickness will drive them out of the key and give us a chance at some rebounds."

Rebounding is something that hasn't come easy to the Mustangs this year. They are last in the conference in defensive rebounds.

Tipoff for the game is 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

continued from page 8

first two days we weren't in that focused state," infielder Melissa Haley said. "We bounced back quickly because we just knew we were a better team than that. We stepped our team up as a whole, and didn't just lay down and take it."

Pitcher Terra Blankenbecler grabbed two wins at the tournament to up her record to 4-1. She now has 21 strikeouts in 23 1/3 innings.

For her solid tournament performance, freshman Holly Ballard earned the title of Big West Softball Player of the Week. Ballard hit .714 with runners in scoring position, bringing in seven runs during the five games. She leads the team so far with a .452 average (14 hits) and 11 RBI.

Ballard said her college success is both overwhelming and surprising.

"I really didn't think I was going to get (the title) since it was my first tournament," Ballard said. "It was an honor."

She said the team has about a 75-percent confidence level going into the UCSB tournament.

"We were very frustrated with ourselves (after the first two games), but the last three games pumped us up for this tournament," Ballard said. "As long as we stay focused and relaxed, we'll be able to do well."

The Mustangs will face Iowa State on Friday before playing San Diego State and Purdue on Saturday. They will play the Aztecs again on Sunday.

"As a whole, we can improve on coming out focused and keeping up that intensity level," Haley said. "We can't sit on that comfort zone, especially if we come off the first day with

a win."

While the Mustangs continue to battle quality teams, junior Kasey Poet said she is fighting a mental battle of her own. Poet, who injured her right shoulder toward the end of last year, has yet to play this season.

"I want to play so bad," the third baseman said. "It makes you realize how much you take things for granted. I really thought I gave everything all the time, but having this injury just puts things in perspective. I'm going to appreciate the game so much more when I come back."

When she'll come back is the question. Poet admits to trying to speed up the healing process at first. Now, she said, she's taking it one day at a time.

"My doctor said it would take a little longer than we thought, and not to worry about making a deadline; I just can't push it," she said. "I'm about 60 percent right now. My hitting is coming along, but I have to work on stretching out my back. The hardest part is picking up the ball and bat, and then having to put them down."

Despite the setback, Poet is able to continue her leadership role on the sidelines.

"The team is doing so good," she said. "I know if they don't take it all this year, they will next year."

The Mustangs took one of four games in the UCSB Easton Invitational last year, and plan to come out with a strong finish this year.

"Iowa State will be a good team to go after," Haley said. "We really don't have a rivalry with any of them, we just need to have a good weekend and keep the level of play up."

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New life for Mustang wrestlers

By Christian von Treskow
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly wrestlers must put a tough season behind them this weekend at UC Davis to compete in the Pac-10 Championships. The Mustangs' lackluster 3-6 conference record is irrelevant. The tournament's results are the sole deciding factor on who will travel to the NCAA tournament next month.

A major obstacle the Mustangs must overcome are injuries plaguing three of the team's freshmen wrestlers. Gregg Herrington, wrestling in the 197-pound weight class, and 157-pound wrestler Josh Blagg will both likely sit out due to knee and neck injuries, respectively. Nate Knutson, wrestling at 184 pounds, is also questionable with a neck injury.

While a banged-up Cal Poly roster will hurt chances for a team championship, it doesn't influence the ability of individual wrestlers to qualify for the NCAA Championships. Senior James Gross is the only returner from last year's team to accomplish this feat.

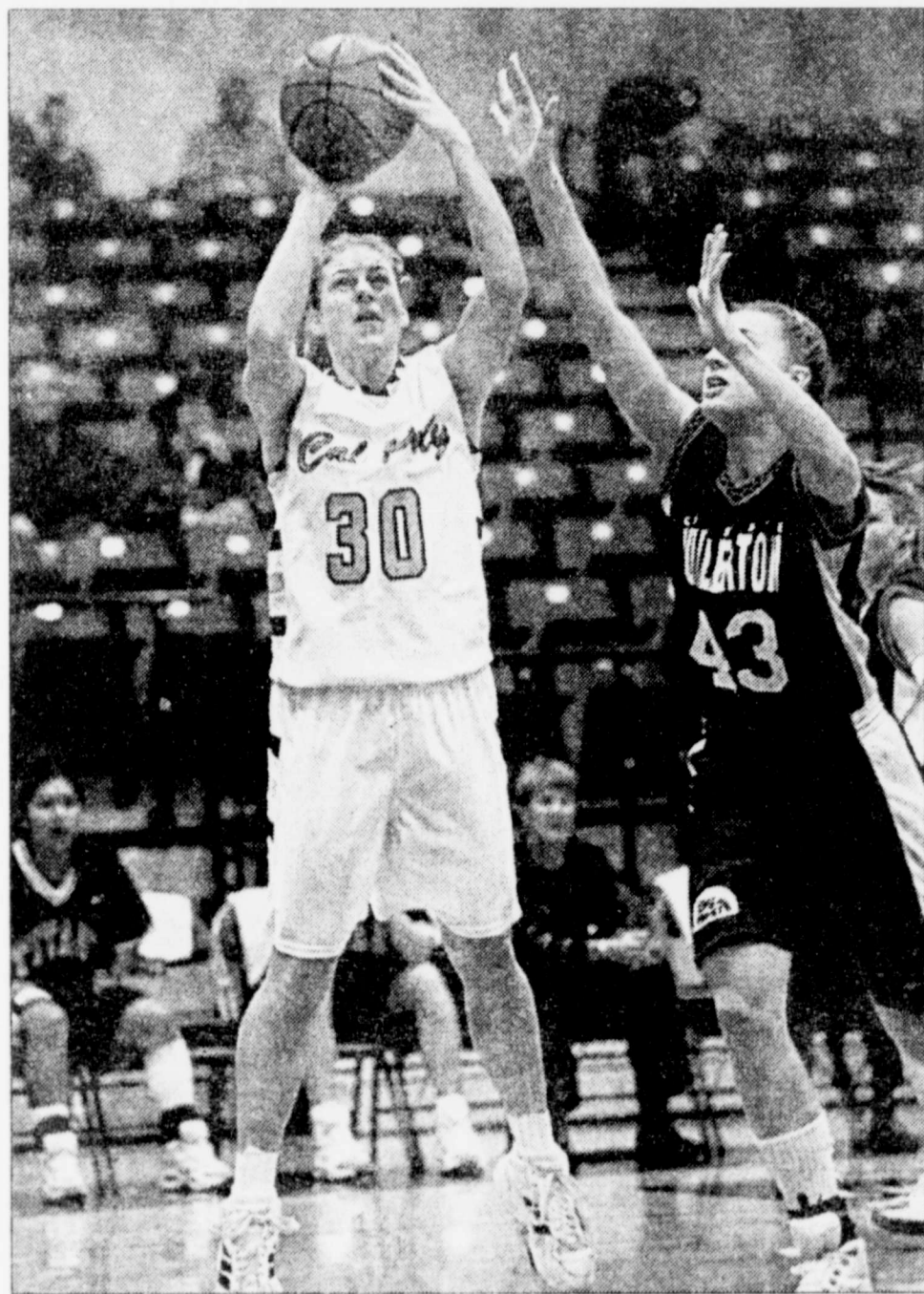
This year, several Mustang wrestlers are contenders to capture an NCAA birth. Sophomore Steve Strange (174 pounds) enters Davis with a 24-11 overall record that included a 16-match winning streak between January and February. The Hickman native is the holder of the national record for most high school wins, and it comes as no surprise that he views the Pac-10 tournament as another chance to prove himself.

"I just want to do the best I can. I want to peak that day and not regret anything," Strange said. "I feel good enough to win it."

Another Mustang poised to make a run at the title is junior Jesse Reta. The 149-pound grappler has won eight straight dual matches entering the tournament, including 15 of his last 16. He remains confident a title is in reach.

"There is no question I should

see **WRESTLING**, page 7



STEVE SCHUENEMAN/MUSTANG DAILY
Forward Taryn Sperry had 11 points in the Mustangs loss Sunday.

Mustangs play host to No. 10 Gauchos

By Christian von Treskow
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A David vs. Goliath matchup will take place in Mott Gym tonight when the Mustangs face the No. 10 ranked UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team. The Gauchos are riding a 19-game winning streak and have already secured a Big West Tournament birth.

The Mustangs currently sit in fifth place in the conference's Western Division. In order to advance to the Big West Tournament, Cal Poly must win three of its next four games, and fourth-place UC Irvine must lose its remaining four games.

Mustang head coach Faith Mimnaugh said she believes the scenario is possible.

"It is certainly possible. If you look at the people Irvine has to play, I don't think they have a locked position yet," Mimnaugh said.

A loss to the Gauchos would put the Mustangs in a three-game,

must-win situation. They would have to defeat New Mexico State at home Sunday and then win both road trips at UC Irvine and CSU Fullerton to round out regular-season play.

Mimnaugh likes her team's chances to win three straight should the situation become necessary. She believes the team matches up well with New Mexico State and Fullerton, and thinks the key matchup will be the March 2 game vs. Irvine.

"If we're able to beat New Mexico State, the big deal will be to beat Irvine at Irvine. We got a good shot at beating Fullerton in the last game," Mimnaugh said. "If all that happens and Irvine loses to who we think they will, we'll go."

While the Mustangs hope for possible scenarios, one thing remains constant: Tonight's game against bitter rival Santa Barbara will be tough. If the Mustangs hope to keep the game close, they will have to shut down the

see **BASKETBALL**, page 7

Softball building on successful start

By Melissa McFarland
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Staying focused and energetic seem to be the key objectives for the Mustangs to keep up their successful start this weekend at the UCSB Easton tournament.

At 7-2, they're coming off a tough University of Nevada, Las Vegas tournament where they finished 3-2.

After losing the first two UNLV Classic games — one to nationally ranked Nebraska 9-1 and the other to UNLV 7-1 — the Mustangs quickly powered back. The next day they beat Florida International 5-4 and Portland State 8-0. Success came again on day three, with a 7-2 win over Southern Utah.

"We weren't on the field for two weeks because of the rain, and so the



STEPHEN KEMPERT/MUSTANG DAILY

see **SOFTBALL**, page 7 The Mustangs have found success despite the absence of their top returning player, Kasey Poet, left.

Sports Trivia

Yesterday's Answer:

Mike Scott was the former Houston Astro pitcher who threw a no-hitter to clinch the 1986 National League West Division title. Congrats Adam Eng!

Today's Question:

Which Houston Rocket was the first NBA player to have 200 blocks and 200 steals in the same season?



Please submit sports trivia answer to: sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu
Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

Scores

VOLLEYBALL

Cal Poly 69
UC Santa Barbara 79

Briefs

Former Cal Poly star signs with Vikings

(AP) — The Minnesota Vikings announced the signing of former Cal Poly standout wide receiver Chris Thomas Thursday. Thomas, who has bounced around from San Francisco, Buffalo, Washington and now the Vikings, is a five-year veteran.

The Vikings, believed to be operating at slightly more than \$1 million under the salary cap, have been scouring the free agent market for affordable and versatile reserves such as Thomas.

After signing defensive back Anthony Marshall this week, they coupled Thomas' arrival Thursday with the signing of free agent linebacker Craig Sauer.

Schedule

TODAY

- Baseball vs. Loyola Marymount
• at Loyola Marymount • 2 p.m.
- Women's basketball vs. UC Santa Barbara
• in Mott Gym • 7 p.m.
- Softball at UCSB Tournament

SATURDAY

- Wrestling at Pac-10 Championships
- Women's tennis vs. Long Beach State
• at Cal Poly • 1 p.m.
- Baseball vs. Loyola Marymount
• at Loyola Marymount • 1 p.m.
- Men's basketball vs. Idaho
• at Idaho • 7 p.m.